

AGERATINA GYPSOPHILA (ASTERACEAE-EUPATORIEAE) A NEW SPECIES

FROM NUEVO LEON, MEXICO

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Recent collections by G. B. Hinton in the gypseous areas abounding about Galeana, Nuevo Leon has revealed the following novelty. It is noteworthy for its decidedly imbricate, 3-4 seriate, involucre (Fig. 1) which is largely anomalous in the genus Ageratina. In other characters, however, it relates to A. miquihuana Turner. King and Robinson (1978) note that the latter is "an unusual member of the genus Ageratina with unequal involucre bracts more like those in some South American species." No doubt they refer to species belonging to their subgenus Andinia K. & R. which reportedly has a base chromosome number of $X=20$ (or 10). Since all North American species of Ageratina have been found to be on a base of $X=17$ (King & Robinson, 1978; Turner unpubl.), counts for the present taxon are highly desirable. In short, the habitual, involucre and floral features strongly suggest a relationship with the subgenus Andinia; but perhaps the features concerned are convergent among the North American species. Chromosome studies should help resolve the problem.

AGERATINA GYPSOPHILA B. L. Turner, Sp. nov.

Ageratina miquihuana accedens sed phyllarii rigidis imbricatis.

Shrub to 1.5 m tall. Stems terete, vernicose and somewhat warty at first, but with age dry and corky-fissured. Leaves thick, glabrous, vernicose, elliptic-oblancoolate, 2.5-4.0 cm long, 1-2 cm wide; petioles 2-8 mm long; blades mostly 3-nervate from above the base, denticulate above the middle. Heads 3-6 in short rigid corymbs, campanulate, ca. 1 cm high. Involucre 4-5 mm long, 3-4 seriate, rather evenly imbricate; bracts rigid, lanceolate, 2-5 mm long, ca. 1 mm wide, vernicose, acute. Receptacle glabrous, plano-convex, ca. 2 mm across. Florets 40-60; corolla pinkish-white, tubular, 4-5 mm long, glabrous, the limb poorly defined with acute lobes ca. 1 mm long. Achenes black, ca. 3 mm long, vernicose and atomiferous-glandular, the 4-5 ribs very sparsely hispid above; pappus uniseriate of 20-30 minutely ciliate bristles 3.5-4.5 mm long, the apices somewhat expanded.

TYPE: MEXICO. Nuevo Leon: Municipality of Galeana, 10 km NE Pocitos, 1840 m, in gypsum ravine, 26 Aug 1984, G. B. Hinton 18779 (holotype TEX; isotypes G. B. Hinton collection).

The species is known only from the type collection but it is clearly related to Ageratina miquihuana and A. astellera Turner. King and Robinson (1977) treat the latter as a single taxon, citing intermediate collections not examined by the present author in support of this conjecture. Nevertheless, A. gypsophila is readily distinguished from all of these by the few-headed, divaricate

capitulescence and short rigid, decidedly imbricate, involucreal bracts and atomiferous-glandular achenes.

Literature Cited

King, R. M. and H. Robinson. 1977. Studies in the Eupatorieae (Asteraceae). CLXIV. Various notes and additions. *Phytologia* 37:455-460

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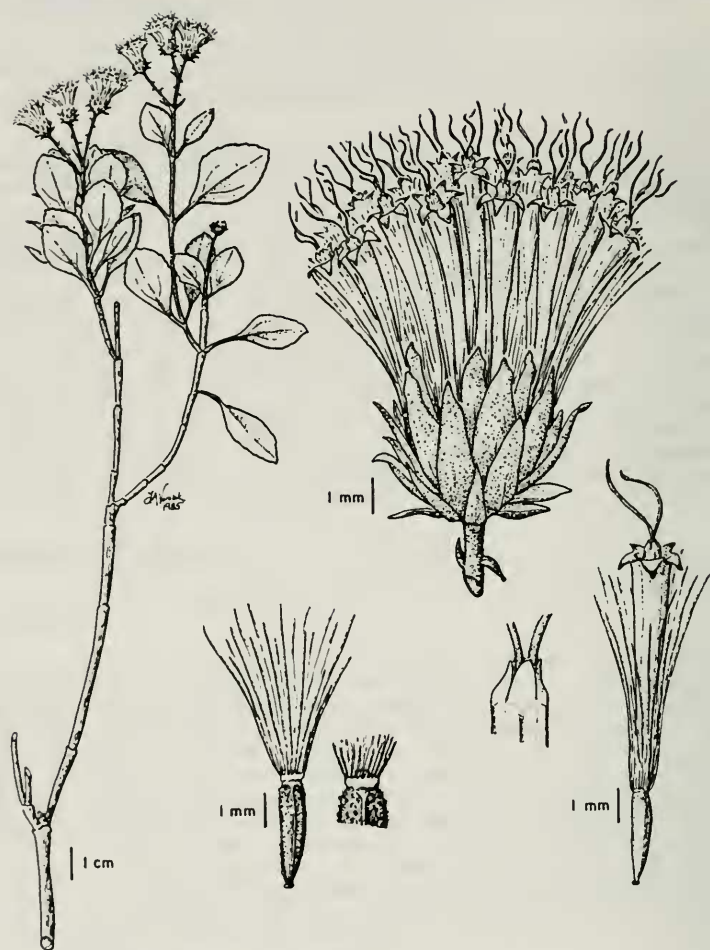


Fig. 1. *Ageratina gypsophila* (from holotype).